

PARLEY IS DODGING VERSAILLES ERRORS

Steed Applauds Deliberation That Will Evade Friction Later.

GUESSWORK IS CUT OUT

Says Acute Minds Like That of Root's Will Close All Gaps for Quibbling.

HOPEFUL TOWARD TOKIO

Believes Japan, Which Could Have Wrecked Conference Before, Won't Do So Now.

By WICKHAM STEED.

Editor of the London Times.

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WASHINGTON, Dec. 5.—While Mr. Balfour is speaking at New York and the Japanese Government is deciding whether or not to sanction the provisional arrangements made by the Japanese delegation much prosaic but important work is being quietly done here in drafting the texts of the various agreements and declarations that will, if all goes well, embody the results of the conference. The importance shown by some delegates at what they appear to regard as unwarrantable delay has therefore no real justification. None of the work of an international conference is more weighty or less showy than the accurate drafting of its decisions. The atmosphere of such a gathering passes, the memory of discussions fades, but texts remain.

As the imperfections of the Versailles treaty prove, hasty drafting may cause endless friction when the exact meaning of loosely worded clauses has subsequently to be divined under the stress of circumstances. Time spent on the essential business of making the conference say exactly what it intended to say, no more and no less, is time well spent, especially when minds as acute as that of Mr. Root are engaged on the work.

The American public at large cannot be expected to take a passionate interest in these meticulous operations. It is, however, so reasonable in its bearing toward the conference that it may be trusted not to lose patience unless the announcement of results is unduly postponed.

Speculating on Tokio's Stand.

Speculation whether the Japanese Government will say "yes" at once, or whether it will procrastinate, is already lively among the delegates and outside. Harmless though it be, inasmuch as it is unlikely to affect the decision of Tokio, such exercise of the wit is futile.

If Japan wanted to wreck the conference she could have done so ere this. Consideration of all the essential facts encourages belief that she does not want to wreck it, but to emerge from it with as much prestige as possible. The tactics of the Japanese delegation last week did not enhance the excellent reputation it had previously earned. The Tokio Government probably understands that useless delay at this stage might cause a situation which Japan can have no interest in setting up.

In estimating the probabilities of a given situation it is unwise to predicate short-sightedness in any direction. At the conference table the Japanese delegates are surrounded by representatives of the countries that are Japan's best customers, countries whose economic good will is indispensable to Japan's prosperity. Therefore, quite apart from the obvious sincerity of important sections of Japanese opinion which favor the conference, there is no reason to assume that the Japanese Government will withhold or will seriously delay assent to the decisions provisionally taken at Washington.

As the work of the conference approaches its climax, the value of the initial momentum imparted to it by Mr. Hughes' opening statement is more fully appreciated. The powerful influence that must be affected by the limitation of armaments would undoubtedly have taken advantage of a slow beginning, or of protracted discussions, to organize resistance.

While the attitude of the largest American steel magnates has been in every respect admirable, it would be asking too much of human nature to expect all armament firms in all countries to welcome the prospect of a diminution of their dividends. Moreover, the issues at stake in the Washington conference were greater than even some Governments perceived. The failure of the American effort to limit naval armaments would have been tantamount to the bankruptcy of international endeavor to strengthen the sense of security among civilized peoples. The success of the American initiative, on the other hand, must encourage further attempts to solve hard problems by international gatherings, convened for precise objects, and of presumably short duration because working vigorously from the outset.

Some of the shrewdest American minds connected with the conference are, and have been from the beginning, convinced that it alone stood between the world and the precipitation of an economic catastrophe. However small the immediate financial saving may appear when the prospective reductions of outlay on naval armaments are summed up in the light of the decisions of the conference, it is not to be forgotten that these reductions are only a prelude from which much greater things may grow in more directions than visionless folk are yet able even dimly to perceive.

LET OFF LIGHT IN ACCIDENT.

Guilty Man Had Bumped Into Woman in Dark.

ROCHESTER, Dec. 5.—Joseph Stremch, found guilty of manslaughter in causing the death of a woman pedestrian by crashing into her near Sea Breeze last week, was sentenced to-day to one year in the Monroe county penitentiary and to pay a fine of \$500. County Judge Willis K. Gillette said that unless towns in the outlying districts provided sidewalks or pedestrians armed themselves with lanterns when walking on the road at night fatal accidents were bound to result.

Due to this view and the fact that the jury had recommended a sentence Judge Gillette said a more severe sentence was not imposed.

DECLARES BATTLE CRUISERS CAN BE TURNED INTO LINERS

'Would Be Safest Passenger Ships Afloat,' Adds Joseph W. Powell, President of Emergency Fleet Corporation.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 5. (Associated Press).—The six American battle cruisers now under construction, but which may be scrapped under the limitation of arms programme, could be converted into fast passenger vessels, Joseph W. Powell, president of the Emergency Fleet Corporation, said to-day. At least three of them, he said, could be so converted, and he added that they would be "the safest passenger ships afloat" if that was done.

Mr. Powell added that as converted the cruisers would have a speed of about twenty-five knots instead of the thirty-three knots they would make if their construction as war craft was continued. A considerable portion of the machinery designed to produce 150,000 horse-power for battle cruisers, he said, would be unnecessary and not economical if they were turned into commercial craft.

One of these battle cruisers converted into a passenger vessel, he said, would have accommodations for 1,000 first class passengers, 2,000 second class and 2,000 steerage, as well as space for 5,000 tons of freight. Such a passenger ship, he asserted, would have the advantage of being the only really non-sinkable liner on the seas because of the bulkhead construction of the hull.

It would be impossible to reconvert such a passenger ship into a battle cruiser, he explained, because to build the liner it would be necessary to tear off the blister, the torpedo protection, from the hull and the armor shelf and build the floating hull from the third deck up. When completed it would take longer, he declared, to remove the superstructure and replace the armorment than it would to build a battle cruiser.

BARON KATO GIVES PLEDGE FOR ACTION

Continued from First Page.

has not yet been seriously considered by this Government.

Members of the American delegation declined to discuss any phase of the Anglo-Japanese treaty to-day or speculate on its probable fate beyond emphasizing their determination to decline participation in it. There does not appear to be the slightest ground for British optimism that the alliance between itself and Japan can be saved from the international scrap heap.

Whether there will be treaties, or merely agreements, relating to Far Eastern complexities has not been determined. It appears reasonably certain that such treaties as may grow out of the conference will apply to limitation of naval armaments. If treaties are considered to be most effective in providing correctives for Asiatic and Pacific complications they will not be negotiated with Great Britain, Japan and the United States as the only parties, but will tie in all of the countries having interests in the Far East.

Their purpose will not be to protect the interests of Great Britain and Japan in the Far East and the Pacific, but to protect China from any other country in the world. This is the real objective of conference plans relating to Far Eastern affairs.

Representatives of the leading Powers, in conceding this fact, are giving consideration to a plan for having China negotiate treaties directly with each of the other nations claiming special privileges or holding under direct concession real estate on the Asiatic mainland. Any general treaty covering the subject, of course, would include Great Britain and Japan whose interests in the Orient are larger than those of any other Power.

Russian Problem.

It is quite probable that the conference will express through the medium of treaties their sympathy for the Russian people and pledge themselves to refrain from taking advantage of the present conditions in that helpless country.

Any undertaking designed to prevent the dismemberment of Russia will naturally have direct relation to the military and economic penetration of Siberia by Japan.

It is not probable that some form of trusteeship designed to hold Russia together until it can be retrieved from Soviet rule will be created.

The only opposition to such a plan is expected from Japan, which has not given any indication of changing her policy in Siberia, where she continues to maintain a large military force to provide a cloak for the activities of concessionaires who are making profitable use of their opportunities.

A delegation headed by Alexander Yashkov, which represents the Far East Republic at Chita, has brought a protest against the continued occupation of their country by the Japanese military forces which the general staff at Tokio has refused to withdraw.

The attitude of the Japanese delegates at the conference has reflected a determination to assert special privileges claimed by Japan in Manchuria and to hold on to the advantages it has gained in Siberia.

Both subjects are certain to cause a vigorous contest between representatives of Japan and those of most of the other countries represented at the conference who believe the work of remaking Asia will not be fully consummated if present conditions are continued.

The Far East committee will take up the Manchurian tangle on Wednesday, when the Chinese Government will induce Japan to surrender her lease of the Liaotung peninsula, which includes the important cities of Port Arthur and Dairen. The indications are that Japan will not consent to make the sacrifice, despite the fact that the full pressure of the conference will be back of the undertaking.

Siberia comes further down on the list and will engage the attention of the Far East committee after the Manchurian problem has been settled one way or the other.

The impression is growing among the delegates of countries holding islands and possessions in the Pacific that a solution of the problem can be provided in a general agreement relating to Far Eastern matters which will bind all the subscribing nations to a pledge not to attack the property of each other. Such an arrangement will be eminently satisfactory to Japan because it would remove one of the chief causes for Japanese apprehension regarding the purposes of the United States.

NICARAGUA GETS ARMS HERE.

Rifles and Artillery of Latest Pattern and Two Airplanes.

SAN JUAN DEL SUR, Nicaragua, Dec. 5.—The Nicaraguan Government has received a large consignment of arms and munitions from the United States. The rifles and artillery in the consignment are said to be of the very latest pattern. The consignment replaces the armaments sold to Panama during the late conflict between that country and Costa Rica. The consignment includes two airplanes, and it was said their pilots were scheduled to follow later.

FAMINE IN CAPE VERDE ISLES.

Eleven Persons Die on Voyage to Portugal.

LISBON, Portugal, Dec. 5.—The Portuguese steamship Moesamedes brings depressing news of the situation in the Cape Verde Islands, from which it transported a number of famine-stricken natives to St. Thomas Island. Eleven of the number died during the voyage. During October 1944 Portuguese citizens returned to Portugal from Brazil because they had been unable to find work there sufficient to earn a living.

PORTUGAL ELECTION PUT OFF.

LISBON, Portugal, Dec. 5.—A decree was issued to-day postponing the parliamentary elections, which had been set for December 11, until January 8.

PRICES REALIZED ON SWIFT & COMPANY SALES

of carcasses beef in New York City for week ending Saturday, Dec. 3, on shipments sold, ranged from 8 cents to 18 cents per pound, and averaged 12.50 cents per pound.

BALFOUR PREDICTS TRIUMPH OF AIMS

Tell English Speaking Union Here That Conference Will Succeed.

PREMIER IN ACCORD

Lloyd George Cables Optimistic Message on Limitation of Arms.

AMERICA GETS CREDIT

Head of British Delegation Says Gathering Is of Utmost International Importance.

Success for the limitation of armament conference was predicted in a glowing speech by Arthur Balfour at the Waldorf last night and by David Lloyd George, British Prime Minister, in a cablegram read just before Mr. Balfour was heard.

The leader of the British delegation in Washington also said he hoped and believed "that the international cooperation toward which all these Powers are honestly working with the United States for the common end is going to be a prelude to other great international actions directed with equal genius and equal unselfishness."

Mr. Balfour, who came to New York to attend a dinner given by the English Speaking Union for himself and the other members of the British delegation at the Washington conference, made generally a plea for finer understanding and cooperation of the peoples whose language is English. He referred directly to the work of the conference in these words:

"I feel that those who had the guidance of the destinies of the United States, who summoned the conference, who arranged its programme, who have guided its proceedings—I feel that they have shown imagination, insight, the need for sacrifice, and that they have with masterly and statesmanlike courage approached the question of the diminution of naval armaments in the only manner in which we can approach it with a certainty of success, and, I believe, success, the certainty of success, is within their grasp."

Lloyd George's Message.

This was the telegram from Lloyd George, whose closing words, like many sentences of Mr. Balfour and of the dinner chairman, Ex-Ambassador John W. Davis, were applauded until the chandeliers quivered:

"I cannot resist your telegram. I have nothing to say which will not be said much better by Mr. Balfour. Of all his colleagues in the British Empire delegation who are enjoying your hospitality to-night, Mr. Balfour holds a very special place in the trust and affection of his countrymen. We have watched with joy the reception accorded him by the United States. The brilliant opening of the conference, the rapid progress made toward the great result, have been like sunlight piercing an overcast and threatening sky. You could not meet in happier circumstances the English Speaking Union. My warmest greetings and good wishes to you."

The dinner brought together about eight hundred men and women. For once women were emphatically recognized at the "big table." Mrs. John W. Davis sat at the left of Mr. Balfour, and on the other side of the British statesman was her husband. Mr. Davis is president of the American branch of the British Speaking Union. Mr. Balfour of the English branch.

Prayer by Bishop William T. Manning, singing of "God Save the King" and "The Star Spangled Banner" and reading of telegrams from Lloyd George and others preceded the oratory. Mr. Davis referred to Mr. Balfour as the only man who had spoken before both the British House of Commons and the American House of Representatives, and assured him he was equally welcome in both.

The British Speaking Union would "oppose with all its strength any malicious or misguided people who would attempt to sow discord and disunion between the peoples of the world." He was certain that in peace as well as war Great Britain was "eye to eye with you" and was "glad to join in any forward step."

Mr. Balfour, ruddy white haired, the picture of an intellectually benevolent grandfather, grasped a lapel of his coat

with either hand as he began, but in a moment he warmed to his theme so completely that he was pounding out vigorous gestures with both arms. The immediate thought in his mind came into words like this:

"Never have I desired anything more in a long public career than that Americans and Englishmen, men speaking the same language, men inheriting the same literature, men living under the same laws, men loving the same liberty, should understand each other, should believe in each other and should follow in harmonious cooperation all the great and unselfish international ends which only cooperation can adequately pursue."

Mr. Balfour then developed the further thought that the English speaking people have been disseminators of freedom throughout the world, and then to this point:

"Remember that there isn't in existence one great, free, self-governing community which has not derived its institutions either from you (the United States) or from us, or from the two of us together. It is either our unwritten constitution or your written Constitution which has supplied them with the model governments which we desire to see and with the methods by which they may attain it."

True, he continued in outline, the United States was right and England was wrong on the main issue of which the War of the Revolution was fought, but that did not detract from the fact that both peoples had a common love of liberty.

"We can feel that whether Americans or Britons we are the joint contributors to the greatest of all political causes, the cause of ordered freedom."

Gives America Credit.

He continued:

"No one can read the signs of the times and doubt for one moment that we can no longer merely think of the international organization of States as an abstract necessity. International sympathy, international help, international cooperation are all absolute necessities. We must not to-day think after the struggle of the last few years, to sink back in the scale of civilization, and to fall utterly in solving the great problems which now lie before us."

Mr. Balfour said he admitted that America had taken the lead in the "great event of these eventful weeks."

"Nothing in this world is so easy," he went on, "as to talk and feel about the necessity of diminishing armaments, about the burdens thrown upon the industries of peoples by the weight of these armaments, by the agonies of the waste, the misery which the use of these armaments brings upon mankind, their heavy cost as a means of precaution and preparation. These are the platitudes of every day. You will always find, if you talk to a sympathetic audience, that it is one thing to feel the necessity of doing something, it is another thing to see how to do it."

Mr. Balfour then made the prophecy already quoted as to the success of the conference.

He took occasion to say again, as he did in Washington not long ago, that although he talked with Mr. Hughes on the evening before the opening of the conference he had no inkling of the sensation that was coming. He said Mr. Hughes told him: "I propose to speak thirty or thirty-five minutes, but I shall not tell you what I propose to say."

"What he proposed to say," Mr. Balfour added, smiling, "was one of the most remarkable utterances which has ever been made by any statesman under any circumstances." He described Mr. Hughes in the delivery of the opening speech in the conference, as both a great statesman and a great artist.

"Because he and those for whom he acted, the President and the Government of the United States, saw with the intuition of genius that if you were to induce other great naval Powers to diminish the burden of their naval armaments the only way was to set them an example which they would be ashamed not to follow," he said.

Mr. Balfour ended with this:

"I hope and believe that always (whether the initiative comes from the western or eastern side of the Atlantic) the two great branches of the race to which we all belong will always be found on the same side; that they will always show how great is the gain of international cooperation. I am not, of course, talking of treaties or formal agreements; I am talking of moral, spiritual, practical cooperation, for on that the future of the world depends."

"And if there are two nations in their character, origin, common body of tradition, common history, common interests, every one of us shares—if there are two nations which surely ought to understand each other, they are those of the British Empire and of the United States."

Ladies at Speakers' Table.

The seating arrangement at the speakers' table was unique, in that it gave high honor to several of the ladies who were there. To Mrs. John W. Davis, who was the former Ambassador, who as president of the American branch of the English Speaking Union was toastmaster, fell the honor of sitting at the left of Mr. Balfour and between him and Sir Arthur Willert, the only other member of the British delegation who was present.

Lord George Riddell, the British publisher had a seat at the right of Mr. Davis, with Mrs. Thomas W. Lamont at his right.

Other guests included Capt. H. Gloster Armstrong, the British Consul-General; Mrs. Armstrong, Bishop William T. Manning, who made the invocation; Major-General Robert L. Bullard, Mr. and Mrs. Henry Morgenthau, James W. Gerard, Chancellor Elmer Ellsworth Brown of New York University, President Alexander McKeljohn of Amherst College, President Kenneth C. M. Sills of Bowdoin College and Dr. John H. Finley.

Frank L. Polk, Norman H. Davis, Edward J. Henning, Maurice Petersen, Cuthbert Hicks, Albert Oliver, William W. Hoppin, Alfred J. Spender, Mr. and Mrs. Balfour, and between them and Sir Edward Bransford, Mrs. C. A. Davidson, Mrs. T. B. Wells, Miss L. Martha Draper, and Miss Julia Davis.

BALFOUR TO RETURN HOME DECEMBER 31

Action Indicates His Belief Conference Will Be Ended by That Date.

By A. MAURICE LOW.

Correspondent of the London Morning Post.

Special Despatch to THE NEW YORK HERALD.

New York Herald Bureau, Washington, D. C., Dec. 5.

Mr. Balfour has engaged his return passage on the Olympic, leaving New York the last day of the month, which indicates his conviction that the work of the conference will be ended by that date. In fact, his belief is that he could go even earlier, but between the 13th, which is the sailing date of the Aquitania, and December 31 there is no fast steamship, and Mr. Balfour naturally would be for the Olympic.

There is great disappointment in all quarters, official and private, that Lloyd George is not coming to Washington. In view of the speedy ending of the conference and the agreements reached there is no necessity for his coming, although if he came merely as an onlooker he would be warmly welcomed, for there is no man in the British Empire in whom the American public takes such a great interest as he.

The Chinese in China perplex the conference but the Chinese in Washington amuse them. A few days ago there was a meeting of the Far Eastern committee. All the delegates were there except the Chinese. The delegates sat about the table waiting, and after sufficient delay it was suggested that the Chinese be telephoned to at their hotel to find out the meaning of their absence.

Word came back over the telephone that they were held in a state of siege;

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